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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/620,597

07/17/2003

Seiji Hachisuka

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EXAMINER

ZHU, JOHN X

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2831

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

10/27/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/620,597	Applicant(s) HACHISUKA ET AL.	
	Examiner JOHN ZHU	Art Unit 2831	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 July 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 11, 27, 30 and 31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 11, 27, 30 and 31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/8/08, 5/2/08, 7/15/08</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 11, 27, 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holmquest (5,619,105) in view of Hoyle et al. (6,731,105 B1).

With respect to claims 1, 11, 27, 30 and 31 Holmquest discloses a current detection method of an inverter (Fig. 1) that converts DC input (output of rectifier) into AC output (column 3, lines 10-14) and supplies the AC output to a load (load transformer, ballast circuit) (column 2, lines 59-63, column 3, lines 18-20) comprising: allowing a magnetic flux change occurring to a circuit/circuit current (inherent to flux change in transformer T5 due a change in circuit current) to act on a detecting conductor (the conductor passing through toroid T5 core shown as LAMP LEADS in Fig. 2) and detecting the change in the current through the medium of the magnetic flux change (magnetically detecting) (column 3, line 41) by the detecting conductor. Holmquest further discloses that as an alternative to the toroid T5 discharge (arc) detection could be accomplished by a detection conductor (additional winding) closed coupled to circuit wiring (the ballast output winding) (columns 3, lines 37-39, 52-55).

Art Unit: 2831

Detection of circuit current due to discharge has been broadly interpreted as the detection of arcing current disclosed by Holmquest.

Holmquest also discloses detecting of the change in the circuit current whether or not anomaly exists in a current route including the load. Whether or not anomaly exists in a current route including the load is broadly interpreted as the arc detection disclosed by Holmquest by magnetically detecting arcing current in a current route including load (load transformer and ballast circuit) (column 3, lines 40-42,52-55).

Holmquest does not explicitly disclose the detecting conductor and the circuit wiring being printed on a circuit board, nor that the detecting conductor having a straight-line segment disposed parallel to a straight-line segment of the circuit wiring such that the flux change that occurs acts on the straight-line segment of the detecting conductor.

Hoyle discloses a current sensor comprising the straight-line circuit wiring (Fig. 7, element 7) on the same board as the straight-line detecting conductor (720) and parallel to each other such that the flux change of the wiring acts on the detecting conductor (Fig. 7B).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the sensor system of Holmquest to have both the detecting line and circuit wiring on a PCB with the parallel straight-line segments for the purpose of providing printed-circuit board embodiments of the current sensor for moderate currents on devices (Column 13, lines 23-28).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 11, 27, 30 and 31 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Yamaguchi (JP 03183965 A) discloses a parallel current sensing device using magnetic flux measurements (Fig. 1).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOHN ZHU whose telephone number is (571)272-5920. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego Gutierrez can be reached on (571) 272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Diego Gutierrez/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2831

John Zhu
Examiner
Art Unit 2831

/John Zhu/
Examiner, Art Unit 2831